



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

March 2000 3

Deadlines for the Journal

Currently the deadline for Journal articles is printed at the very beginning of the Chapter report section. We have to follow this schedule and I know that it is not all that easy to do considering the time of the chapter meetings. However it has to be followed so that the Editor can do his job and get the Journal out on time. The time between the deadline and the mailing of the Journal may be changed in the future and give you a 'tad' more time so watch that page carefully.

With the Fall 1999 issue, the Journal is now being printed in Florida and mailed by a mailing service down there. Delay between printing and mailing has been decreased by quite a bit.

We love good, sharp pictures that show good contrast and lighting. There are quite a few more electronic cameras out there. When using them take a good look at the picture you just took. Is it showing good contrast and is the lighting adequate? Then send us that file and give us names and calls, generally reading from left to right. It is preferable to type the names on a piece of paper and attach with some instant glue to the back of the print. In a number of instances people have written on the back of the print with a soft tip pen and this has bled over onto other adjacent prints.

Watch the deadline listing at the beginning of the Chapter Reports section of the QCWA Journal.

Digital Cameras

While we are writing about pictures, do you remember a recent issue of HLR where I talked about the new digital cameras? Well, a lot has happened since then, some of it close to home here in Eugene. One of my friends bought a Nikon Cool Pix 950 (about \$1000) and the pictures are stored on a memory card and you can vary the quality of the picture that you take. In the very high resolution mode, an 11" by 14" print can be made with great detail. For most of us our color printers will do 8" by 10" prints and in using some of the picture images done with this camera I am amazed at the detail that shows in the print.

I recently made a sentimental trip back to New Guinea where I was based some 50 years ago. My oldest son went with me. He produced a digital camcorder, made by Sony, and I spent a weekend dubbing the tapes off to regular VHS tapes. Again, the resolution is terrific. For those of you who are interested, Milne Bay in the SE corner of New Guinea, was the site of the first land defeat of the Japanese army in the Pacific theater. August 1942 was the date and it was a bitter battle. A few months after that our 33 squadron set up operations on an island named Samarai just south of that area.

Dues Notification

Lately there has been a large number of questions relating to our notification of the members that their dues may need to be paid. I guess the information needs to be repeated every once in awhile.

Quarterly, we mail the dues notification envelopes. This is a small white envelope and can be reused to return your payment. This is done just about the time that the QCWA Journal is sent out, so that can be a reminder. On your mailing label, if you are not a Life member, your dues expiration date is printed on the top line in position #3 as "mm/dd/yy". If you are a Life member, then just the slash bars are there and the next position has a "L" printed. We try to use this format on all labels that come from Headquarters as a constant reminder of the information.

This mailing is done as a bulk mailing which is generally pretty good, but things can happen. If you think you should have received a notice let us know and we can check the database for you.

Just for your information, examine the label and the first line on your next Journal mailing. The first set of numbers is your Chapter number (no numbers, no chapter), the next set is your member number, then your expiration date, then Life, and finally the date you were first licensed. While we are on this subject I want to thank everyone for helping us to obtain proper +four zip numbers, but there are still some that we need. Take another look at the zip code and if there is no +four (domestic USA mailings) then get it and send it in. It saves us quite a bit in mailing costs.

Chapter Brochure

How many of you Chapters produced a color brochure (or black and white) for your Chapter to be given to prospective members? I have seen several very good productions this past year and one that stands out is in color and has a small chapter application included on the back fold. All of these have been produced in home computer components and you should look into it in your area. Cost is not that great and it is pretty impressive to hand to a new applicant.

A few Chapters have produced their own member directories on home computer installations and distributed them to the members of the Chapter. Names, calls, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses have been included. Send us a copy if you do this.

I like the one that is a tri-fold and gives some information about the Chapter and then on the last page is a small application for the prospective new Chapter member to complete. Pictures of the officers are included so the applicant knows them at first glimpse.



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SK Reports

We are always anxious to update our database and sometimes that makes a difference in our mailing costs.

I just received a Chapter newsletter and there were several pages devoted to obituaries on some of their members. Some of the dates were several months old and so we got our records modified quickly.

How nice it would be if the secretaries of Chapters, or other members if they wish, would let us know in a timely fashion about the deaths of our members. We often have to go to some extremes to obtain this information.

So, how about notification of Headquarters, promptly of course, of any members becoming a SK. Give us the date and their call and we will take care of the records. An obituary would be nice, for we attach those to their membership cards for future reference.

ULR Registration

As most of you know, The FCC has adopted a Universal Licensing System (ULS) that requires all amateurs renewing or modifying their licenses to furnish the FCC with their TIN which is the social security number for most of us. If you are like me, you probably won't do it until such a time as you need to use it.

It is relative easy to do on the internet. Simply connect to :

www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls

and select "TIN/Call sign Registration". You then fill in the blanks on a form with your social security number, and a personal identifier (usually your mother's maiden name). The FCC will then assign you a Licensee ID which you can use on subsequent forms to keep your social security number private. Please do this, especially if you are planning on upgrading in the next few months.

News For Everyone

Very recently we completed the paper work and can now accept VISA and Master cards for payment of services. This notice has been imprinted on the last mailing of dues notices and we are now starting to see those come back with payment. Over the years we have had very few requests to use a credit card and finally we decided to give it a try.

Certainly it is much more convenient for the membership, but it is more work for headquarters and it remains to see whether the benefits outweigh the expense of the program. This not only applies to dues payments, but to the rest of the articles that we have available for our membership.

Chapter Activity

One the newer items suggested for a Chapter activity is the holding of a swap fest on a week-end, by the Chapter. It is successful and has been bringing forth some good developments for the few that have tried it.

Find a parking lot at a business and ask permission to use it for a few hours on a Saturday. Spread the word that you are going to have a amateur swap meet and at the appointed time back up your cars, open the trunks, drop the tail gates and start the show.

One chapter that has had a lot of fun with this is Chapter 63, down in Oklahoma. They have scheduled another one and this one is being held on Saturday April 15th and appropriately is being called "Dooms Day Swapmeet". On Lincoln's birthday they called the meet "Honest Abe's Swapmeet", I think you may have the idea and it is turning out to be a fun event. Let us know how it goes for an event for your group.

Newsletters

One of our good friends, Dub George, W5DUB, has been sending a copy of their monthly newsletter for the Tex-La Golden Triangle Chapter #51. Dub has (almost) everything that is currently of use electronically or computer wise. Now he has a Nikon Cool Pix 950 camera and is including some of the most magnificent pictures in his newsletter and is having a great time developing even better skills as he goes along.

Dub wrote some material on his techniques he uses to get these results and although he has some very high line printing equipment I do feel that others out there can improve their newsletters by following some of his techniques. I have a Cool Pix also, and so I have been prying out his methods via e-mail.

He shoots regular images, in the next highest resolution and then takes that file to his computer where he uses a high end Photo Shop program. The file is modified to a "grayscale" file and is then adjusted for best printing from his laser printer. Then he reduces the physical size of the picture, still retaining all the details, to the size appropriate for his newsletter. There you have it.

This came to mind when I got a newsletter from one of our Chapters and they had some potentially great pictures, but they were too black to really get much out of them. A little adjusting before they are printed would do the trick. What Dub is doing will apply to film just as well. You have to scan, either the negative or the print, then work on that digital file to obtain the best printing results.

It appears to me that those chapters with a newsletter do the best in the long run, even one sheet of information helps hold the chapter together. Anything that improves that start is all the better. Let's use those cameras and the computers to provide some visual benefits for the members.



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Endowment Program

The Spring issue of the QCWA Journal contains the announcement of the new QCWA Endowment program. This program is designed to establish a fund that will insure the continuance of QCWA into the future. Our Treasurer, Duke Knief, W4DK, has referred to it as "QCWA's 401 K Plan". It will greatly appreciated if you will discuss this new program at your next local Chapter meeting and solicit support for it from your members.

The most immediate part of this program will be to solicit "Endowment" gifts of cash or negotiable securities. To initiate this portion of the program a donor has pledged to match, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the first \$10,000 donated to the Endowment Program. This gives your chapter and its members a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have contributions DOUBLED!

Other aspects of this important new program are fully described in the Journal.

The success of the new Endowment Program is of vital importance for the long-range financial health of QCWA.

Please let us know your thoughts on this program, and your Chapter's suggestions for any other activity that might be undertaken to assure the future of our Association

Note: The above is from our Chairman of the Financial Committee and I thought it best to include in this issue of the HLR.

A New Approach

I recently received a notice of the Hawaiian Chapter meeting. They have an active group over there and are actively soliciting new members.

The packet provides all the information about the meeting and the location. It also gives them a phone number for those that will stay over so they can reserve a room at the hotel.

The package also included a list of the current members and an application for National and Chapter membership. It is quite well done and certainly is a good invitation to send to a prospective new member. That few dollars of extra postage will reap great benefits.

A brochure with an application is a great investment for your chapter in soliciting new members. Make certain that all of your current members have at least a few current applications, it makes it so much easier when they approach a new prospect. Also, be certain that you have the correct form of application. We have three of them: one for Domestic, one for foreign members and one for Canada.

Address Notification

When you move, please let us know !

Right now we are at the period following a mailing of a Journal. So far we have received over 100 copies of the mailing cover (\$0.50 each) informing us of the fact that the member does not live there anymore.

A goodly portion come back with a statement "Temporarily away", meaning they have gone back north from the sun areas of the country. In the long run this amounts to a fair amount of expense that can be avoided, if you will just keep us informed of your whereabouts, and timely.

75 Year awards

Each year, in January, I search the database to determine all those members that are entitled to a 75 year plaque. This year produced names of nineteen members eligible for this award.

Checking of these names produced evidence that four of them were silent keys, they were not in any database and we had had no contact with them for a number of years. They were removed from the list.

At the moment I am now down to two, one of whom is in Australia and the other I found a telephone number and left word for him to call.

Just think, most of these people are into their nineties and all, so far, have indicated that they are still on the air and still find amateur radio exciting and fun. Almost all of them held out hope for a great future for amateur radio and wanted to be a part of it for as long as possible. It is a good feeling to be able to communicate with these fine people.

We plan on having as many pictures of them in the Journal as we can obtain.

With these final words I close this belated issue of the Hot Line Report. Please share the information with your Chapter members. It seems like this has been in progress for ages and every time I got started with it something else took precedent and had to be completed first. Thus the HLR got delayed.

There are a lot of good ideas developing from our members and I do hope you will show a concerted effort to continue the good work of planning chapter meetings, obtaining new members and sharing your progress with the rest of us. Big or small, chapters can always stand to find new ways to do something and make it work for them.

In this new year, our best to all of you from Headquarters and keep those communications coming to us.

Jim Walsh, W7LVN

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